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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Lebanon

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

Visit of Ex-Mufti to Lebanon

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.

THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Through an official British channel; from a source described as well-placed and established, who based the report on information furnished Syrian authorities by a prominent Lebanese individual. Appraisal of Content: 2.

- The following opinions were expressed by Hajj Amin al-Husayni, the ex-Mufti
 of Jerusalem, to a prominent Lebanese personality during the ex-Mufti's visit
 to Lebanon in the last week of November 1953.
 - a. Egypt is the strongest Arab State. Even though her leaders are the most enthusiastic partisans of an attack on Israel, Egypt cannot participate in a war with Israel so long as British forces are on the Suez Canal.
 - b. Jordan, owing to the British hold upon her, has no will of her own.
 - c. Great hopes are placed on Syria which is the only state anxious to destroy Israel and which is at the same time able to strengthen its forces and its economy. Unfortunately, Syria alone cannot risk such an undertaking for some time.
 - d. Lebanon is generally so weak that it cannot be counted upon.

The ex-Mufti added that for these reasons the present state of affairs must be expected to last for some time.

- 2. The ex-Mufti, while in Beirut, called on Ahmad al-Rawi, Iraqi Minister to Lebanon, and complained of the large number of Iraqi personalities who were, he said, "playing the British game." He accused these Iraqis of being British agents and said he held proof of their guilt which he was prepared to publish.
- 3. While in Beirut Hajj Amin al-Husayni was visited by Emir Adil Arslan, Syrian ex-Minister to Ankara; Shawkat Muftic and Asif Karajavic representing the Yugoslav refugees in Lebanon. The ex-Mufti also visited various Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon. At a meeting in the house of Shaykh Tawfiq Tayyibi the ex-Mufti harangued the refugees on the need to keep together pending their return to Palestine.

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